

IRISH PHILATELY

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Edited by

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"Liys Awel", 6 Cloverdale Road, Lambeg, Lisburn, Co. Antrim

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EDITORIAL

This issue of our Journal completes the Volume for 1977 and once again it is my pleasure to thank all those members who contributed articles. Keep up the good work!

Another 'STAMPA' has come and gone and how nice it was to see Mr Dixon there every day, giving advice to those who sought it on all aspects of Irish Philately. We were glad to meet old friends yet again and we enjoyed looking at the competition entries. Alas, a reduced number from 1976. All in all four days well spent.

Dorothy and me would like to wish all members the compliments of the season and may 1978 bring you those philatelic gems you missed in 1977.

OM Richards

"Irish Philately"

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Letters to the Editor:-

Dear Sir,

5s 0d Waterlow Re-engraved.

I have a used copy which shows an overprint variety similar to the well-known Sacrstat found on the Thom high values. I am not aware that such a variety has been reported on the re-engraved series.

The error is even more noticeable, about one third of the letter being missing. Traces of ink appear in the gap, suggesting that it is not caused by foreign matter on the type face but a defect in the type itself. The Feldman Handbook suggests that the overprint plate used was the same as that used for the wide setting and the earlier Thom printing.

I cannot remember seeing a wide setting with the Sacrstat variety (though others may enlighten me). Has anyone material to confirm or position the variety on the re-engraved series? Or, is it not constant?

Yours faithfully,

Patrick Williams

Dear Sir,

Observation - August 1977

The new coil stamps issued earlier this year never reached the general public through the vending machines as the majority of these machines have been dismantled and a sheet of brass plate put in their place. One or two machines do exist but with the sign 'out of use'. Does this signify the end of coil stamps? To the public at large this is a shame as, in the densely populated Dublin suburbs (and elsewhere), postage stamps cannot be purchased on Saturdays as all sub-post offices are closed all day.

The public at large never buy stamps in bulk, most people sit down in the evening to write a letter and then look for a stamp. None in the house; good exercise could be had by a walk to the coil machine and the post box. Now the letter stays around for ages before being posted - if at all!!

Another convenience lost to the public and a bad image for the Post Office.

Yours faithfully,

Michael J Kerr

P & T
PHOTOGRAPHS Again there were interesting differences between the issued stamps and the advance publicity designs. In the case of the ESB design there was a white area in the lower right hand corner, changed to green in the final design. On the bulls of the 12p the lines of the horns, ears etc were shown light on a dark background, whereas the issued stamps have all these lines dark.

FED

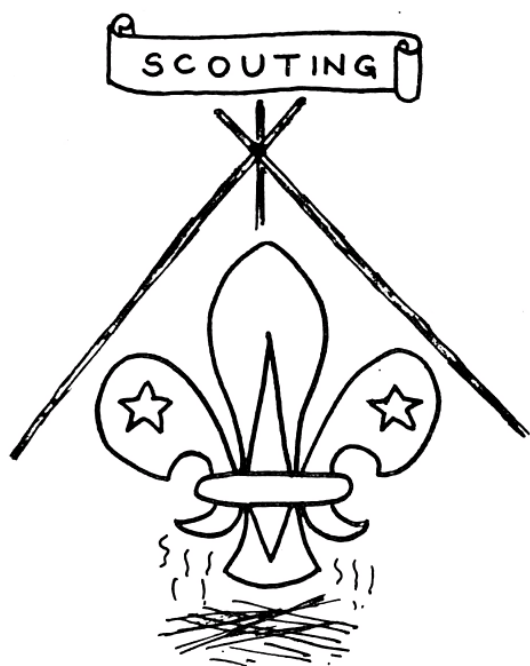
MODERN IRISH COVERS AND SIGNATURES

by R. French

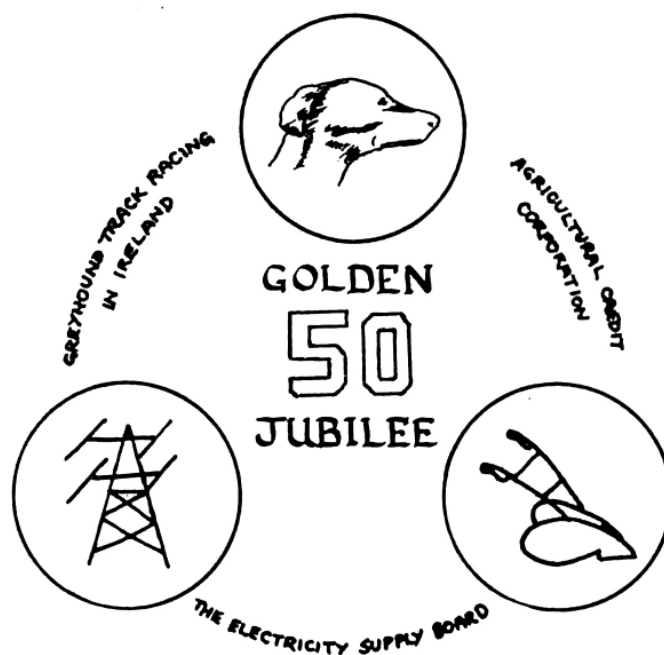
This is the final article and I propose to cover signatures and how to obtain them.

The event or theme depicted on the stamp or cover can usually be associated with an appropriate living person. For example, I have a rugby cover signed by Willie John McBride (Irish Rugby Captain), Presidential Election cover signed by President O'Dalaigh, two Oliver Plunkett covers, one signed by Cardinal Conway and the other signed by Father Convery, Parish Priest at St Oliver Plunkett Church in Derry, Northern Ireland, and many more.

Once I have decided upon the person whose signature I require, the next problem is where to send the cover. Addresses can be obtained from 'Who's Who', this generally gives a home address, or I send C/O the society or business with which the person is involved. These addresses can be had from 'Whittakers Almanac', Irish travel and publicity literature, company address books or similar publications found in the reference section of any good library. Persons whose autographs I have asked for have usually been very co-operative in signing and returning the covers promptly, in most instances a letter or note has also been enclosed which helps to authenticate the signature.



First Day Cover



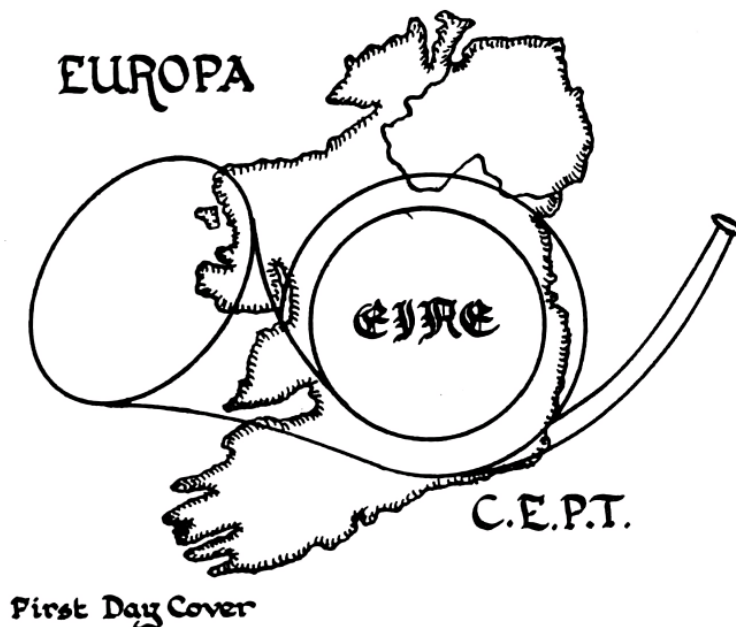
First Day Cover

On a cover produced for the EEC issue I thought it would enhance the item to have it signed by the Prime Minister, Mr John Lynch. I obtained an address from a colleague who had got it from a friend, the cover was duly sent off. It arrived back after five days bearing the signatures of the President, Mr Eamonn de Valera and Mr John Lynch. Apparently, the address I had been given was that of the

President who had signed the cover and then realised that the request was for the Prime Minister, it was then passed on, signed and returned with a note of apology which was not necessary as the mistake in the first place had been mine and as a result had produced a star item for my collection.

If I intend to try to have a cover signed I usually prepare two, one to be retained as insurance against possible loss once a cover has been sent away, although I have only lost three in this way out of a total approaching 150 Irish and British covers that I have sent all over the world.

Only two covers have been returned unsigned, one was from the President of the USA, whose secretary said that if he signed all autograph requests there would be no time for any other business. The other was from a person who said that as the commercial value of the cover was increased by his signature he did not feel inclined to sign. Whilst there is no doubt about the cover value increasing this is not the aim of the exercise and I would have to be in a dire financial plight before I would consider profiting in this fashion from the collection.



Mr. R. FRENCH
13 VOLTAGE TERRACE
PHILADELPHIA
HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING
TYNE & WEAR

I hope these articles have created some interest in what is, for me, a fascinating variation to straightforward cover collecting.

The covers shown are those I submitted to and were subsequently rejected by the Irish Post Office for the 1977 issues.

RANDOM NOTES

by F.E. Dixon

CONTEMPORARY IRISH ART STAMP I think of Louis le Brocquy as a great artist, but he is not representative of Irish art, being influenced mainly by continental artists in his earlier work. He knows nothing of stamp designing and the choice of one isolated example of his "Heads" is stupid. It has little significance except in conjunction with all the others.

SCOUTING AND GUIDING Robert Ballagh does understand stamp designing and his simple well balanced designs are excellent. It was a neat idea to have the girl and boy in silhouette, thereby side-stepping the problem of what colour to make the uniform. Whatever colour used would have annoyed some groups who wear others.

SENATE ELECTION Arthur Stokes has drawn my attention to the envelopes used by the Universities for sending, by registered post, the ballot papers for the postal voting. They are specially printed, with a printed substitute for the adhesive label, Dublin University having abbreviation DU and National University NU.

1976 PACKS The Irish Post Office has committed one of its worst philatelic crimes by re-introduction of stamps withdrawn a year ago, under their own six-months rule. It is offering all the 1976 commemoratives, face £1.67 in a pack for £2.00 plus, of course, postage. We hope that philatelists will resist this latest gimmick. Incidentally, the conditions have another built-in stupidity. Anyone ordering two separate packs pays postage, 10p, each time. But if he orders two together the charge is 37p!

Another remarkable absurdity is in the matter of accents. Most of the stamps continue the error of omitting the accent from ÉIRE but the cover of this pack has an accent on the Í of Ireland!

SCOUTING AND GUIDING Collectors of the glossy photographic reproductions of stamp designs sent out with advance publicity should note that there are two versions. One has the 8p above the 17p, each 36 x 29mm: the other, printed with more contrast, has them side by side and only 29 x 21mm. Another point about the photographs is that on both values the light and dark portions of the smaller tents are interchanged from those of the final stamp issue. The P & T envelope sold for first-day use makes the mistake avoided in the stamps. The guide's uniform is brown, whereas that of the original Irish Girl Guides movement is still blue.

PHILATELIC SECTION DELAYS Items sent to the Philatelic Section in advance, for posting at the 32nd International Transport Federation Workers Congress at the Burlington Hotel, Dublin between 21st and 29th July, received the datestamp for 22nd July, but mine were not delivered until the 5th August. This is an express service compared with the UK Philatelic Bureau: also reaching me on the 5th August were two FDC bearing 9p Silver Jubilee datestamped with the day of issue, 15th June, one datestamped Windsor the other the Bureau.

SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS ICSID 10 on a special cancellation used 19-21 and 23-24 September = International Council of Societies of Industrial Design, which held its 10th meeting at the College of Surgeons, Dublin.

TRIANGULAR
CANCELLATIONS



JR Henderson, 28 Newhailes Avenue, Musselburgh, EH21 6DW, Scotland. who has done superb work in assembling details of all the RSO cancellations, is now studying the triangles of the UK and Ireland. At present he is particularly keen to get at least photo-copies of those with numbers instead of the customary letters, both the large triangles normally applied to cancel stamps on printed matter posted in bulk and small ones intended as mis-sort markings. All I could supply are CTV, 156 and 303 (both small with included rhomb)

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303 and 404, both large. It was Mr Henderson who explained the rhomb insertion: it is our old friend the Irish diamond, first used in Dublin datestamps in 1815.

ERIUGENA

Unless they happened to see the official hand-outs, few people would realise that the SCOTUS on current £5 notes and ERIUGENA on the depressing 12p stamp issued 12 September are probably the same man. According to Enc. Brit. (Xlth edition) there have been claims for his birth in Scotland, Wales and England as well as Ireland, and it was once thought that John Scotus was a different man from John Erigena (the generally accepted spelling). Enc. Brit. states:- "Erigena is the most interesting figure among the middle-age writers.

The freedom of his speculation, and the boldness with which he works out his logical or dialectical system of the Universe, altogether prevent us from classifying him along with the scholastics properly so called. He marks, indeed, a stage of transition from the older Platonizing philosophy to the later and more rigid scholasticism".

He taught in the court of King (later Emperor) Charles the Bald, and is credited with the witty answer when the King asked him the difference between a Scot and a sot. "A bit of a table". One legend brings Johannes Scotus Erigena to teach at Malmesbury, at King Alfred's request, about 882, but it is more likely that he had died about 877 - which explains (?) why this year was selected for celebrating him on a postage stamp.

THE 1844
NUMBERED
KILLERS

One striking feature of the series of numbered cancellers brought into use in 1844 was that so many places were allotted them. At the time there were only 328 post towns in Ireland, but 440 numbers were issued (Nos 1 - 450, less 9, 19, 89, 98, 99, 109, 169, 189, 191 and 199). The 112 non-post-towns seem to be those listed as 'Sub-offices', whereas the remaining offices were listed as 'Receiving Houses'. More research is needed in this field. I find that Hendy was wrong in suggesting that the down-grading of post offices was a result of decreased business after the Famine years 1846 - 47. The main changes were due to re-organisation of the system in 1856 - 57 when the number of principal offices was reduced by half - from over 300 to 150.

10 OCTOBER
COMMEMORATIVES

The preview of the designs suggests that the ESB (10p) will be the most acceptable (especially as 'eire is accented)! The 12p is absurd. The Agricultural Credit Corporation is not used nowadays to buy bulls, and a colourful landscape with a modern farmhouse (with large cars outside) would have been more appropriate. And to copy Percy Metcalfe's bull from the shilling four times is not imaginative. Why not include a 1977 bull, or a phial of semen?

THE PROVINCIAL PENNY POSTS OF IRELAND

Compiled by F.E. Dixon with amendments by B. de Burca

The original list was compiled by F.E. Dixon in 1960 mainly from material in the Field collection. This list has been amended from information in auction lists, Dixon's Philatelic News and my own collection. There are, apparently, dual attachments in some cases, and both are given in this list. Where there is a receiving house or sub-office attached to a town and its name is not known I have simply entered 'one'.

<u>Post Town</u>	<u>Penny Post Sub-office</u>	<u>Post Town</u>	<u>Penny Post Sub-office</u>
Abbeyleix		Ballymote	Tubbercurry
Ahasceragh	Ballinamore Bridge	Ballyshannon	Ballintra Beleek Bundoran Cliffony
Antrim	Kells		
Ardara	Glenties	Baltinglass	Hacketstown Stratford Kiltegan
Ardee	Drumcondra		
Armagh	Killilea	Ballinasloe	One
Arthurstown	Duncannon	Bandon	Enniskeen Timoleague
Ashbourne	Duleek (also Drogheda) Garistown Balrath	Bantry	
Ashford		Belfast	Abbeylands No 2 Dundonald Dunmurray Templepatrick Whitehouse
Athboy			
Athlone	Glasson (also Ballymahon) Liscarrow	Belturbet	
Athy	Ballalinan	Blackrock	
Aughnacloy	Augher	Boyle	Ballyfarnon No 1
Balbriggan	Julianstown	Bray	
Ballybay		Burros-a-Kane	
Ballycastle	Armoy	Cabinteely	
Ballyconnell	Swanlinbar No 1	Cahirciveen	
Ballydehob		Carn	Straid
Ballyglass	Balla Kiltimagh	Carrickfergus	Ballycarry Whitehouse (also Belfast)
Ballyjamesduff			
Ballymahon	Glasson (also Athlone)	Carrickmacross	Shercock
Ballymena	Gracehill	Carrick-on- Shannon	Cashcarrigan Drumshambo Keadue No 1
Ballymoney			

<u>Post Town</u>	<u>Penny Post Sub-office</u>	<u>Post Town</u>	<u>Penny Post Sub-office</u>
Castleblakney	Moylough	Dundalk	Crossmaglen
Castlederg (SO in 1839 list)		Dunfanaghy	Falcarrow
Castletown-Bere		Dungannon	Dunaghmore Pomeroy
Castlewellan	Newcastle	Dungiven	Clady
Cavan		Edgeworthstown	Ardagh Balinallee
Charleville	Drumcollogher	Ennis	Ballynacally
Clara	Ballycumber	Enniscorthy	Kyle No 2 Oulart No 1
Claremorris	Ballyhaunis (also Frenchpark)	Enniskillen	Ballynamallard Beleek Blacklion No 6 Lisbellaw Tempo Trillick
Clones	Newtownbutler		
Clonmel	Bansha (also Tipp.)	French Park	Ballyhaunis (also Claremorris) Loughlyn
Cloyne			
Coleraine	Aghadowey Articlave Portrush Portstewart	Galway	Claregalway Outerard Roundstone
Coollooney	Ballisodare Coolany Dromahaire	Gervagh	Aghadowey
Cork	Ballintemple Carrigaline Glanmire Monkestown Watergrasshill	Gore's Bridge	Borris
		Granard	Finea
Craughwell	Monivea	Hollymount	Kilmain
Dalgany		Johnstown	Urlingford
Derry	Ballykelly Carrigans Clady Fahan Muff Muff Don Newtown- Cunningham St Johnstown	Kanturk	
		Kilbeggan	
Donegal	Ballintra Dunkaneely (also Killybegs)	Killala	Ballycastle Rathlacken
		Killaloe	Fiakle No 2
Downpatrick	Crossgar	Killarney	Castleisland (also Newcastle) Killorglin (also Cahirciveen Newcastle or Tralee)
Drogheda	Duleek (also Ashbourne) Julianstown Clougherhead	Killeshandra	Carrigallen
		Killybegs	Carrick Dunkanelly
		Kilmacthomas	Bunmahon

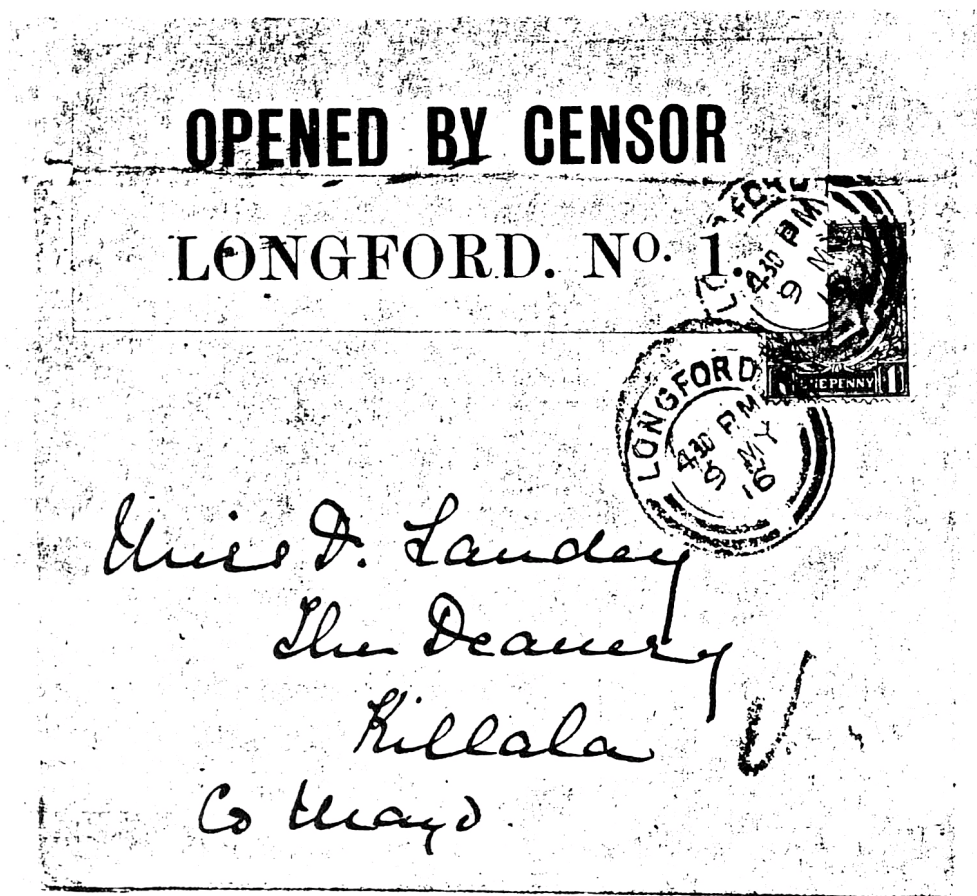
<u>Post Town</u>	<u>Penny Post Sub-office</u>	<u>Post Town</u>	<u>Penny Post Sub-office</u>
Kilmallock	Kilfinan	Raheny	N Dublin Bay
Kilrush	Kilkee	Ramelton	Milford
Kinsale	One		Rathmullen
Kish	Pettigo		Tamney
Larne	Ballycarne Ballycarry	Raphoe	Convoy
Leighlinbridge	Fenagh Myshall	Rathcormack	Castlelyons
Leixlip		Rathdrum	
Letterkenny	Churchill	Roscarbery	Unionhall
Limerick	Barrington's Bdge Patrickswell	Santry	
Lisburn	Dunmurry	Shinrone	Ballingarry
Lisnaskea	Maguires Bridge	Skibbereen	Skull No 1 Crookhaven No 2
Longford	Kenogh or Kenagh Richmond Harbour	Strabane	Killygordon Lifford
Loughbrickland	Poyntzpass	Stranorlar	
Loughrea	Woodford No 1	Stradbally	
Maguires Bridge	Woodgate No 1	Strokestown	Tulsk
Mallow	Cecilstown	Taghmon	Bannow
Markethill	Mountmorris	Tarbert	Ballylongford
Monaghan	Smithborough	Templemore	Templetuohy
Money more	Coagh	Thomastown	Kells Knocktopher Stoneyford
Mountmellick	Clonaslie	Thurles	
Moville	Culdaff Greencastle	Tipperary	Bansha (or Clonmel) Cappawhite
Mullingar	Multifarnham	Tralee	Annascaul (No 5 seen) Ardfert Ballihigue Blennerville Spa
Newcastle	Abbeyfeale Castleisland (also Killarney)	Tuam	Ballindine Corrondulla Milltown Sheevant
Newmarket-on-Fergus	Quin	Tullamore	One
Newtownmountkennedy	Annamore	Tynan	Killilea (No 2 seen) Middleton
Omagh	Beragh No 4 Dromore Drumquin Gortin or Gorton Newtownstewart	Waterford	Passage Tramore
Oranmore	Kilcolgan		

<u>Post Town</u>	<u>Penny Post</u> <u>Sub-office</u>
Wesport	Louisborough

<u>Post Town</u>	<u>Penny Post</u> <u>Sub-office</u>
Wexford	

In conclusion I dislike repeating that oft quoted statement that Irish place names are difficult and it really does emerge in going through this list. Where spelling was difficult I consulted an 1844 Directory, Brumell and Eolai an Posta (don't tell me that this is wrong as it's how I learned to spell it over 60 years ago). In some cases I thought it advisable to give two spellings.

It will be seen that there is still much to be recorded regarding the Penny Post in Ireland.



Thanks to Dr Brian de Burca I am able to illustrate an interesting cover of 9 May 1916. The cover, addressed to Killala Co Mayo, was handed in at Longford and it may be that it was necessary to have letters censored and sealed before stamps were cancelled.

It will be noted that the censor label has been placed over the stamp and the cancellation applied over it.

OMR

POSTMARK MISCELLANY

by O.M. Richards

STAMPA '77. The four special postmarks used at Stampa this year are illustrated. Produced locally in Dublin, they are simple in design and very pleasing to look at.



Christmas



National
Museum



Scouting

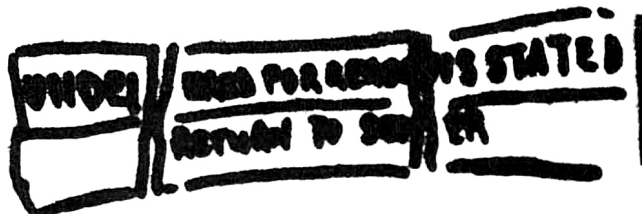


Folklore

The Irish Department of Posts and Telegraphs were at the British Philatelic Exhibition held in London in October 1977. A handstamp cachet had been commissioned but its production had been delayed, because of this a cachet was produced in Dublin by the Department. In the event the two were available at the BPE and are illustrated. The one on the left is that produced by the Department.



An interesting evening was spent with member Jack O'Neill during our visit to Stampa '77. Jack has a fine collection, amongst other things, of postage due markings and one of the covers he showed me, he actually presented me with a duplicate, had a postage due marking I hadn't seen before. The letter had been posted in Dublin for local delivery and was returned to the sender with a request for 1½d postage due. This was indicated by the 1½d between bars illustrated below, the cover is backstamped BAILE PHIB BAILE ATHA CLIATH (Phibsborough) and the stamp may well have been used there. Also, on the front of the cover is a strike of the 'UNDELIVERED FOR REASONS STATED RETURN TO SENDER' stamp, held together by elastic bands.



CHRISTMAS SEALS OF IRELAND

by O.M. Richards

During Stamp 1976 member Michael Giffney showed me examples of two different Christmas Seals issued by the WOMENS NATIONAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND in 1909. Figure 1.



Figure 1

This association was mainly concerned with the health problem caused by tuberculosis. Local branches were in being and their task was to organise fund raising activities; to promote public and home health; to advise on the prevention of diseases and how to root them out when they were discovered. In 1909 there were some 100 branches already formed and it was in January of that year that the first monthly issue of 'SLÁINTE' (Health) was published. Edited by the Countess of Aberdeen, it was well produced, a journal full of fascinating information on the fight against disease. In the October 1909 issue there appeared an article entitled: 'The Christmas Stamp in America' by Priscilla Leonard, reprinted from 'The Outlook' of October 1908. It gives an account of the efforts made to issue stamps or seals in the USA, based on those issued in Denmark, to aid the fight against tuberculosis, the American postal authorities frowned on this scheme. However, under the auspices of the American Red Cross seals appeared some three weeks before Christmas 1908. They were an immediate success as part of a campaign against the dreaded tuberculosis.

The next article in the same issue of 'SLÁINTE' was entitled 'How to Organise the Sale of Christmas Stamps for the Promotion of Public Health in Ireland, (Suggestions for the Branches, taken by kind permission from the Experiences of USA Workers)'. It gave details on how to form committees, acquire premises, advised on Staffing such premises, times that the stamps should be on sale etc, etc. It was the blue print for an instant business as it were.

The Womens National Health Association would supply all the stamps needed plus any help or advice required. Letters were to be addressed to The Secretary, Christmas Stamp Bureau, Womens National Health Association, 76 Grafton Street, Dublin. Stamps were to be supplied at cost price i.e. 5/- per thousand, these would retail at $\frac{1}{2}$ d each.

The November 1909 issue of 'SLÁINTE' showed illustrations of three stamps, Miss Elizabeth Yeats designed the 'Sláinte' stamp and also the 'Country Scene'. It is likely that Miss Dorothy Ross of the School of Art in Dublin was responsible for the third design with the 'Double Cross' in the centre. These designs are shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2

The stamps were supplied in little books and envelopes holding 100, 50, 25, 12 and 6 stamps respectively. As has already been stated, stamps were supplied at 5/- per thousand, large posters were at cost price being donated by the printers Dollard Ltd of Dublin, the stamps were printed by Messers Baird of Belfast. Two of the envelopes and a reproduction of one of the posters is shown in Figures 3 and 4.

12 HEALTH AND WEALTH CHRISTMAS STAMPS

ONE HALFPENNY EACH.

Issued by the Women's National Health Association of Ireland.

Stick this stamp with message bright
On every Christmas letter;
Help the tuberculosis fight,
And make the New Year better.



These stamps do not carry any kind of mail, but
any kind of mail will carry them.

USE THEM AS STICKERS.

These Stamps must not be affixed to the address side otherwise the letter will be
returned by the Post Office to the sender.

HEALTH AND WEALTH

12 Christmas Stamps

ONE HALFPENNY EACH.

I'm the Good Health Christmas Stamp.

This that I propose is

To summon wealth to fight for health

And beat tuberculosis.



Buy me every chance you get!

Do you good? Just try me!

Lick me light and stick me tight!

Buy me! Buy me! Buy me!

☹ They will not carry any kind of mail, but any kind of mail will carry them.

USE THEM AS STICKERS TO FASTEN YOUR LETTERS.

These Stamps must not be affixed to the address side otherwise the letter
will be returned by the Post Office to the sender.

Figure 3

Sláinte, Sláinte, Sláinte

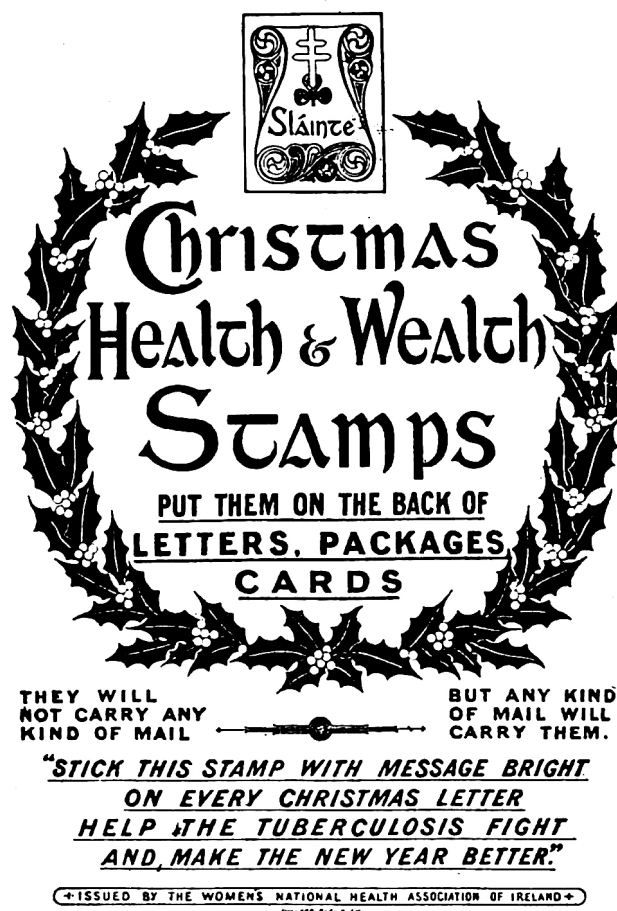


Figure 4

In the December 1909 issue of 'SLÁINTE' it was stated that the sales of stamps in Dublin was 250,000 and in other branches 100,000. The editor expressed her delight at the response from the public and an appreciable sum of money was raised to further the aims of the Association.

The Christmas Stamp Shop was at 18B Nassau Street, Dublin. Inside there was a counter for the sale of stamps, also facilities for the public to affix the stamps to their letters. At the rear of the shop was a tea room where customers could refresh themselves after they had purchased and stuck on the Christmas Stamps.

Some 80 business houses in Dublin allowed the Association to set up tables for the sale of stamps and also room for the posters advertising the scheme. Despite the number sold, very few seem to have survived, certainly I had not seen them until I bought those illustrated in Figure 1 from Michael Giffney. I do not have an example of the third stamp but it does exist, Mr FE Dixon has an example of it.

The story of these Christmas Stamps is remarkably well documented in the issues of 'SLÁINTE' for October, November and December 1909. Despite my name being at the head of this article I am one of a trio of members. My thanks are due to Mr FE Dixon for his advice and to Michael Giffney who introduced me to the stamps and kindly loaned the two envelopes for illustration. Other designs are photo copied from 'SLÁINTE' which was kindly loaned to me by Mr FE Dixon.

by E. FitzGerald and B. Warren

There were seven new sets of stamps comprising a total of 16 stamps plus a miniature sheet with a total face value of £2.06 (1975 - 18 stamps with a face value of £1.52). In addition to the above, there was a specially inscribed version of the miniature sheet issued at 'Stampa '76 which was sold for 80p. All issues were photogravure printed by the Revenue Stamping Branch, Dublin Castle unless otherwise stated.
Sheet Format: Single panes 10 x 10. Paper: Unwatermarked.

Lithography and photogravure by Revenue Stamping Branch. A second litho plate (2) was required for each value. In respect of the 11p value this second plate was un-numbered resulting in only the photogravure cylinder number alone appearing on issued sheets.

All varieties occur on both printings. The dot in eye variety occurs on all stamps in the seventh vertical row.

Varieties: 15p R5/SI Serif on 5 of 15

I.P.

Date of Issue	Description	Designer	Value	Plate/Cyl. Numbers	Perfs	Number Printed
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Lithography by Irish Security Printers Ltd. The original printers' sheet for the miniature sheets was in a format 3 x 3. Sheet stamps also had traffic light colour blocks within the cylinder blocks of four. 2966 miniature sheets from the original printing of one million sheets were specially inscribed in the outer margins 'Irish National Stamp Exhibition Stampa '76 Dublin November 11 - 14 1976 Taispeantas Náisiúnta Stampaí'. Each sheet was numbered and was on sale at the Exhibition for 80p (limit one per admission ticket). The additional inscription with the permission of the Irish Post Office was printed by Irish Printers Ltd. The sheet was postally valid and can be found on covers posted at the Exhibition.

Varieties: 8p R5/S2 Tail on 8

The above variety occurred on part of the printing only. This semi-constant variety is consistent with the litho process. The 7p and 15p sheet stamps plus the original miniature sheet all exist with missing silver.

1 Jul	Europa	Patrick Hickey	9p 11p	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	15 x 14½	4 mill 2 mill
	Varieties:	9p R7/S1	Red Spot on Barrel			

30 Aug	Art	'The Lobster Pots, West of Ireland' by Paul Henry adapted by Raymond McGrath	15p	1 1 1 1	15	2 mill
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5 Oct	Irish Broadcasting	Graham Shepherd and Al O'Donnell	9p 11p	1 1 1 1 1	14¾ x 14 14 x 14¾	8 mill 2 m
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Lithography by De La Rue Smurfit Limited. Traffic light colour blocks also appear within cylinder blocks of four stamps.

11 Nov	Christmas 76	Nativity by Lorenzo Monaco adapted by Raymond McGrath	7p 9p 15p	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	15 x 14½	10 mill 10 mill 2 mill
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A predominance of either the blue or the red ink caused distinct shade variations from sheet to sheet on any given value. The issue as with most of the Christmas issues was 'fly-specked' with numerous minor dot and dash varieties, not worth listing.

Date of Issue	Description	Designer	Value	Plate/Cyl. Numbers	Perfs.	Number Printed
11 Nov	Stampa '76	Miniature Sheet	80p	See US Bi-Centennial issue above		

ANIMAL DECIMAL DEFINITIVES (UNWATERMARKED SERIES)

In line with postal increases effective from 1 January 1976 four new Definitives were issued in July. In addition, the 2p dog stamp was re-issued on unwatermarked paper in April. Photogravure printed by the Revenue Stamping Branch, Dublin Castle in sheets of 200 made up of two panes 10 x 10 with gutter margin. Definitive presentation packs were also introduced during the year.

7 Apr	Definitives	Heinrich Gerl	2p Dog	1	15
14 Jul			8p Dog	1	15
			9p Dog	1	15
			10p Stag	1 1	15
			11p Stag	1 1	15

Varieties: 10p R19/S8 Spot below second 'E' of Eire

24 May Low Value Presentation Pack ($\frac{1}{2}$ p - 9p) which contained the following stamps:-

Dog Design - $\frac{1}{2}$ p and 4p watermarked
1p 2p 3p 5p 6p 7p unwatermarked

Stag Design - 8p and 9p unwatermarked

A blue insert card gave details of the stamps in the pack.
Total face value of 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. Cost 55 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.

High Value Presentation Pack (10p - £1) which contained the following stamps:-

Winged Ox Design - 12p watermarked
10p 15p 20p unwatermarked

Eagle Design - 50p and £1 unwatermarked

Yellow insert card. Total face value of £2.07. Cost £2.17.

FIRST DAY COVER CANCELLATIONS

1. All FDCs emanating from the Philatelic Section, GPO, Dublin 1 and St Andrew's Street PO, Dublin, received a special cancellation inscribed - 'Baile Átha Cliath Lá a Chéad Eisiúna' plus date of issue. Exception - Christmas Issue. Each cancel had an appropriate design to match the issue e.g. Europa - CEPT symbol. Christmas issue had the normal CDS plus two line cachet.
2. FDCs of the Christmas issue posted at the Stampa '76 Exhibition at the RDS Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 on 11 November received in addition to the special Christmas postmark (see below), the old style cachet 'Lá a

Chéad Eisiúna/First Day of Issue'.

3. There was no special first day of issue facilities for the release of the 2p definitive on unwatermarked paper although covers exist with CDS only.

SPECIAL EVENT CANCELLATIONS AND CACHETS

1. 'Collectors Exhibition - Baile Átha Cliath - 15/16 Bealtaine 1976'. Used at the Gresham Hotel, Dublin 1, the postmark which was square in black, commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the Irish Philatelic Society. Two versions, one for each day, in English and Irish respectively. Special cover available illustrating both postmarks.
15 May - 'Irish Philatelic Society Seventy Fifth Anniversary 1901 - 1976'
16 May - 'Cumann Seighneachair Na hÉireann 75 ū Cuimhneachain'
- 2.* 'Department of Posts and Telegraphs Ireland Interphil '76 Philadelphia May/June 1976'. The Irish Post Office attended the above Exhibition (29 May - 6 June). A special cachet was applied on request to philatelic mail which could then be posted at the Exhibition. It should be noted it was not a postmark; however, covers are known with the cachet applied to Irish stamps by favour. Circular in black.
- 3.** 'Cub Scout Diamond Jubilee 1916 - 1976 Brē The Scout Association of Ireland 23.5.1976'. Pictorial handstamp in purple. Used at Kilruddery, Bray at a special camp to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Cub Scout Section of the Scout Association of Ireland.
- 4.** 'Cill an Mhuilinn 31.V.76 Presentation Order'. Circular in purple. Used at Killavullen PO during celebrations held in Killavullen, Co Cork in commemoration of Nano Nagle founder of the Presentation Order of Nuns who was born in nearby Ballygriffin.
5. 'Carrolls Irish Open Port Mearnóg'. Rectangular pictorial in purple. Used during the Carrolls Irish Open Golf Championship at Portmarnock Golf Links 26 - 29 August 1976 inclusive. Post office facilities provided.
6. 'World Methodist Conference 28 VIII 1976 Baile Átha Cliath'. Rectangular pictorial in black. Used at the RDS Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Special cover sold by the organisers.
7. 'Cork Stamp Exhibition 9.X.1976 Corcaigh'. Circular in black; design featured a transmitter mast as per Ilp Broadcasting stamp. A special cover sold by the Cork Philatelic Society featured the site of Cork's First Broadcasting Station. Used at the Imperial Hotel, Cork.
8. In connection with a Philatelic Exhibition held in Wexford on the occasion of the 25th Wexford Opera Festival three pictorial cachets were applied to mail posted at the Exhibition post office in the Talbot Hotel, Wexford. The regular Loch Garman CDS in black was used to postmark the stamps. The designs on the cachets appear to have been used indiscriminately during the Exhibition which was held from 22 - 31 October featured operas performed during the Festival:-
 - a. The Turn of the Screw.
 - b. Giovanna d'Arco.
 - c. Merry Wives of Windsor.All rectangular in purple.

- 9.* Stampa '76 - Four pictorial postmarks, one for each day of the Exhibition were applied on mail posted at the Exhibition post office in the RDS Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. The themes of the postmarks were as follows:-

11 November - 'Christmas' featuring the Star of David in Celtic design.
12 November - 'America' featuring the American Eagle.
13 November - 'Space' featuring the Marots satellite.
14 November - 'Europa' featuring the letters CEPT.

A special official Stampa '76 envelope was available showing the four postmark designs.

10. '1726 - 1976 27 XII 76 Corcaigh'. In connection with the 250th Anniversary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster a special Conference was held in Cork. Used at the Masonic Hall, 27 Tuckey Street, Cork, the circular postmark in black features the Masonic symbol. Special cover was available from the organiser.

* Illustrated in 'Irish Philately' - December 1976.

** Illustrated in 'Irish Philately' - September 1976.

POSTAL STATIONERY

- 5 Feb Two new registered envelopes (Sizes G and K) were issued.
Size G - Embossed 33p stamp on old stock cotton scrim envelope. Later in the year the envelope appeared on the new style duplex manilla envelopes with blue interior. Cost 34p.
Size K - Embossed 33p stamp on duplex manilla envelope with blue interior. Cost 35p.
- 18 Mar New Letter Card bearing a printed 9p stamp in green. Cost 9½p.
- 25 Mar The 33p registered envelope in Size H was issued (duplex manilla). Cost 34p.
- 18 May New Style Air Letter Form (Blank - no stamp). Rectangular in format; colours as before black and orange on grey paper. Incorrect spelling 'ngnathphost'.

PRESENTATION PACKS

- 17 May US Bi-Centennial Miniature Sheet. Cost 49p.
24 May Low Value Definitives (Blue insert). Cost 55½p.
24 May High Value Definitives (Yellow insert). Cost £2.17.

Complete content details given in new issue listings.

Note: The complete series of 1976 special issues (16 stamps, no miniature sheet) were issued in a presentation Year Pack which was released the following year on the 26 July 1977. Cost £2.

Total Face £1.67.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1. International Reply Coupon - Cost 18p.
2. A privately produced Souvenir Card was issued by the organisers of the Collectors Exhibition held in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin on 15/16 May 1976. (See special cancellation Number 1). It featured colour reproductions of the 1939 US Constitution issue. Large format similar to the US post office exhibition cards, the card was sold for £1. Each card numbered. Total

printing 5000. Printed by Irish Printers Ltd.

3. First Flight Cover for Aer Lingus Dublin-Milan on 1 November 1976. CDS plus large rectangular green cachet. Backstamped Milano on 5/11/76. A return flight cover has been reported although not yet seen by the writers.

NEW SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

1. 'Navan Trade Fair 1 - 7 March 1976'. Used at Navan only from 1 - 29 February 1976.
2. 'Giving for Living'. Used on behalf of the Blood Transfusion Board at Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Limerick, Galway, Donegal, Cavan and Dundalk.
3. 'Wexford Festival Opera 25 Years'. Used at Wexford. Introduced in June the postmark was soon withdrawn as it was giving a very poor impression.

OLD SLOGANS RE-ISSUED (Hibernian Catalogue Numbers)

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|------|--|
| 1. | SP. | 55 | Bank Your Savings in the Savings Bank. |
| 2. | SP. | 68 | Post Early for Christmas. |
| 3. | SP. | 85 | Prevent Forest Fires. |
| 4. | SP. | 95 | Buy Prize Bonds. |
| 5. | SP. | 97 | August Bank Holiday - Kinsale Regatta. |
| 6. | SP. | 105 | Teach Children to Clean their Teeth. |
| 7. | SP. | 111 | Dublin District Numbers (Type I). |
| 8. | SP. | 123 | A Full Address Speeds Delivery. |
| 9. | SP. | 130 | Savings Certificates Build on Secure Foundations. |
| 10. | SP. | 131 | Save Easy Way, Easy Deposits etc. |
| 11. | SP. | 142 | Carrick-on-Shannon Ireland for Boating and Fishing. |
| 12. | SP. | 150 | Dublin District Numbers (Type II). |
| 13. | SP. | 155 | Festival of West Cork - Clonakilty - July. |
| 14. | SP. | 163 | Athlone on the Shannon. |
| 15. | SP. | 165 | Dublin District Numbers (Type III). |
| 16. | SP. | 1973 | No 4 Donegal Town for Holidays. |
| 17. | SP. | 1975 | No 2 Kill Show (Co Kildare) Whit Monday. |
| 18. | SP. | 1975 | No 4 Conserve Energy. |
| 19. | SP. | 1975 | No 5 Let Your Fingers do the Walking - Golden Pages. |

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CORK STAMP EXHIBITION

The special cancellation for the Cork Stamp Exhibition on 15 October was quite neat, but seriously wrong. The Boy Scout movement was established in Ireland very soon after its foundation in 1908. It was the Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland who came into existence in 1927.

FIRST DAY COVERS

The Electricity Supply Board produced neat envelopes for use with the 10p commemorative on 10 October and I predict that they will be looked for by collectors.

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